



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
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"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

December, 2015

ADVENT

The basic dictionary meaning of the word *advent* is something like “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.” This is why we might hear someone talk about the “advent of the internet” or the “advent of the winter season.” While we do not usually use the word *advent* much in our everyday conversations, we do use phrases like the “arrival of spring,” or “the appearance of the full moon” and “making an entrance.”

The word *advent* is the English version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” The Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*. This word was commonly used in the first century to talk about the coming of the emperor or ruler or king, i.e. the arrival of a notable person. *Parousia*, in the Bible, refers to the second coming of Christ in glory.

For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. Throughout the Advent season, we share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and, in keeping with the command of the Christ, we remain vigilant and alert for his Second Coming.

Christians have always recognized the central importance of Christ in all areas of life. This even includes how we keep track of time. For instance, based on the Gregorian calendar, this is the year 2015AD. The AD is an abbreviation of *anno Domini*, a Medieval Latin phrase meaning “The Year of our Lord.” Based on this approach, the Old Year ends on December 31 and the New Year begins on January 1. Throughout each calendar-year, we recognize the four seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter.

Advent is the first season of the Christian church year, the beginning of the Liturgical Year for those who follow Christ. What does that mean? Rather than just following the seasons based upon the sun, we follow the seasons based upon the Life of Christ. As you would expect, the Life of Christ begins with the preparations related to his birth. That makes Advent a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus at Christmas.

How long has the Christian community recognized the season of Advent? We do not know for certain. We do know that a period of preparation for Christmas was certainly in existence from the year 480AD. The Council of Tours in 567AD ordered monks to fast every day in the month of December as a way of preparing for Christmas. Advent has been celebrated for a long time.

Advent is the first season of the Christian Year. It begins on the Sunday falling on or nearest to November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditionally, Advent has been observed as a time of fasting, focusing on personal and communal preparations for the coming of Christ, not only the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas, but also at the *Parousia*. This makes Advent a period of time for both devotional preparation and joyful expectation.

Advent has many traditions that help to make it more meaningful. For instance, this season is marked by the Advent Wreath, a garland of evergreens with four candles surrounding a Christ Candle at the center of the wreath. Although the main symbolism of the wreath is marking the progression of time as the season unfolds, we also attach the important Christian themes of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace to the four candles. You might have had an Advent Wreath in your home for devotional use.

In Christ,
Pastor Craig



Happy December Birthdays

Happy December Anniversaries

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|-------|------------------|-------|----------------|
| 12-1 | Judy Sherrod | 12-20 | Trevor Davis |
| 12-9 | Melanie Scheer | 12-21 | Raya Duryea |
| 12-10 | Ellen Dalton | 12-22 | Brad Nelson |
| 12-10 | Olivia Williams | 12-24 | Clare Tarcha |
| 12-16 | Jessica Fritz | 12-26 | Eryn Rinck |
| 12-17 | Dave Moss | 12-28 | Rebecca Duryea |
| 12-19 | Allison Williams | 12-30 | George Noyer |
| 12-20 | Ben Bradfield | 12-30 | Stacey Sandvik |

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| 12-20 | Kim & Charlyn Vance |
| 12-23 | Ron & Donna Wentzel |
| 12-28 | Steve Gunberg & Sherry Carrier |

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule 2015

◇ **Advent Services 12/2, 12/9 & 12/16**
Soup Supper from 5:30--6:15pm & Worship Service upstairs at 6:30pm

◇ **Christmas Caroling 12/22 Downtown (Meet 6:30pm in the courthouse parking lot)**

◇ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship:**
3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm & 9:30pm (Holy Communion at 9:30pm)

◇ **Christmas Day Service (one service) 9:00am**

◇ **Sunday after Christmas (12/27) we'll have one combined service at 10am**



Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias will again be used to beautify our Sanctuary and Entryway as we celebrate the birth of Jesus as our Savior. If you can help us purchase the poinsettias, please donate \$15 or more and note "poinsettias" in the memo field. Checks can be left in the "flowers" mailbox above the coffee station. We will leave the poinsettias through Epiphany.

Concordia Members' Corner.....

Men's Bible Breakfast is December 12th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.

Christmas Caroling at Casey's Pond: Please join us (meet in the lobby at 11:20) for Caroling at 11:30. If anyone would like to meet afterwards for lunch at "Egg & I" let the church office know for reservations.

Bowling night 1/9/16: Fun, Fellowship and Bowling! Sign up on the entryway table!



Sr. High Youth Mission Trip

Sr. High Youth will be heading to Denver to bring the Angel Tree gifts to the Sun Valley Youth Center children on 12/5.

Please return the Christmas gifts for the Sun Valley kids no later than 12/4.

Sisters in Spirit (S.I.S.)

Thank you for your donations of cookies, breads, crafts and other specialty items. We also thank all those who donated their hard work, time and talents to this special event. It was a huge success and raised over \$7,100 for missions!

Please join us on Saturday, December 12th for Christmas Caroling at Casey's Pond. We will meet in the front lobby at 11:20am and begin caroling at 11:30am

Concordia's Website

The address is: www.steamboatlutheran.org

Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!

